

115

EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

25 May 1968

25X1

Berlin Mayor to Assume Local SPD Chairmanship

Mayor Schuetz intends to become chairman of the Berlin SPD vice Kurt Mattick, at a local party congress on 25 May. Schuetz hopes to assume control of the party organization and transform it into a predominantly right-wing group. He will need the cooperation of the conservative faction within the Berlin SPD, called the Mafia, which is presently under the control of deputy mayor Kurt Neubauer. Neubauer will probably be elected deputy party chairman, and a number of Neubauer's associates in the party are expected to be elected to other high party positions. This group will then endeavor to rid the executive committee and other party organs of the left wing element which is presently in difficulty because of its support for the extra-parliamentary opposition. The conservatives hope to use a newly-established local party court to purge the left wing.

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25X1

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EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWN-
GRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION

25X1

-2-

25X1

Party Maintains Rigid Control of Bulgarian Writers' Congress

The first Congress of the Union of Bulgarian Writers, held in Sofia during 20-22 May, produced no indication of impending liberalization within the stable, tightly regulated atmosphere of Bulgarian literary circles.

Georgi Dzhagarov, endorsed and controlled by the Party leadership, was reelected president of the Union. Both of the deputy presidents elected also appear to be Party conformists. The speeches and statements issued at the Congress stressed the familiar themes of "faithfulness to the principles of socialist realism," and unity among the writers, the Party and the people.

Petr Pujmann, President of the Czechoslovak Union of Writers, provided the single jarring note to the otherwise bland harmony of the Congress. While reaffirming his country's commitment to socialism and its "firm ties with the Soviet Union," Pujmann defended Czechoslovakia's present political liberalization and the Czechoslovak writers' deviations from socialist realism. His speech before the congress was greeted with stony silence by the audience, according to a Rumanian delegate. In line with Bulgaria's sketchy reporting of the situation in Prague, no mention of Pujmann's comments appeared in the official pronouncements of the Congress.

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Yugoslav Banking Delegation to Visit US

At the invitation of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), directors from ten leading Yugoslav Banks will arrive in the US for a 19 day tour beginning 3 June.

The group's tour will take them to Washington, New York, Pittsburgh and Chicago where they will participate in banking seminars, study procedures for improving working cooperation with the IBRD, and visit stock exchanges and banks. They will then go to Mexico City for a few days before returning to Yugoslavia. The delegation will

25X1

-3-

undoubtedly be looking for pointers that might help them in dealing with current problems in the Yugoslav economy.

25X1

Hungary Passes USDA Meat Inspection

Hungary may now export meat to the US. After several years of negotiations, revisions in Hungarian meat packing procedures, and finally, inspection by US Department of Agriculture representatives, the State Department is ready to add Hungary to the list of countries eligible to export meat to the US, which is published in the Federal Register.

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East German Postal Demands May be Negotiated

The two Germanies may open negotiations to settle the long standing claim by Pankow for postal services allegedly incurred by West Germany. In replying to Bonn Postal Minister Dollinger's 9 May letter offering to make a "first step" toward recompensation, GDR Postal Minister Schulze said his ministry had ordered "an examination of the message and reserves the right to take further action." Dollinger had demanded an itemized account of the charges and said that his government was prepared to make compensation for the period from 1 January 1967. However, the East Germans continue to refer to a debt of "about one billion marks" which suggests they still hope to be compensated for services dating back to 1954.

25X1

25X1

25X1

-4-

More North Vietnamese Trainees Arrive in Poland

Two hundred more Vietnamese have arrived in Gdansk for training in the shipbuilding industry, according to the 13 May Polish press. The report also indicated that yet another group would arrive soon to take part in the Gdansk training program, which is to last 3-4 years.

As of late last summer, there were about 2000 North Vietnamese in Poland, about 75% of them in industrial training programs and the rest in higher education. Earlier this year, at least one group of some 300 arrived for training in various Polish enterprises. The total Vietnamese student and trainee complement in Poland probably is around 2500 and counting.

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Albania to Participate in Network of Balkan Seismological Stations

Albania participated in an April meeting of seismologists at Skopje, Yugoslavia (site of the disastrous 1963 earthquake) and agreed along with Greece, Bulgaria, Rumania, Turkey and Yugoslavia to participate in the establishment of a network of seismological stations.

Tirana's decision follows last November's severe earthquake along the Albanian-Yugoslav border, near the town of Shupenze. Tirana apparently has decided to put aside, at least temporarily, political differences and cooperate in a joint venture for the betterment of the area.

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